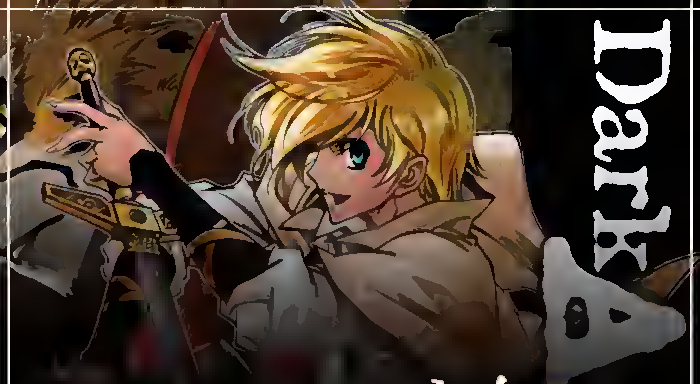

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DARK AIR # 9

by Park Min-seo

Credits

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9
TEAM GRANDMASTER?

THIS CHILD IS A...
GRANDMASTER?!

WELL THEN, ON TO THE MAIN SUBJECT

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT AFTER?
YES, SEEMS SO
THIS ISN'T A MATTER OF WHAT I THINK ABOUT IT OR NOT, IT'S BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING NO AMOUNT OF THEORY WOULD HELP EXPLAIN THIS
I'LL ASK YOU ONCE AGAIN
COMPARED TO JAFFAR, WHAT'S IT LIKE?
...

AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, IT'S DIFFERENT. JAFFAR WAS THE MASTER LORD, HISTORICALLY UNPRECEDENTED
BUT THIS IS STRANGE
I DOUBT 10 GRANDMASTERS AT ONCE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO TAKE HIM DOWN.
AS YOU KNOW, MAGES USE A CATALYST TO AMPLIFY THEIR MAGIC
BUT THIS CHILD HAS NO NEED FOR CATALYSTS.
EVEN SO IN THIS DARK AIR
REALISTICALLY, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE EVEN I'M AT THE LOWEST OF THE BASIC LEVEL FOR THESE THINGS.

HAVE YOU FOUND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THE CAUSE OF DARK AIR?
TRYING TO NAB AWAY INFORMATION I'VE WORKED MY ASS OFF FOR? WHEN'D YOU LEARN TO SCAM PEOPLE LIKE THAT?
BUT...
IF YOU'RE THINKING OF EQUIVALENT EXCHANGE, I MIGHT RECONSIDER

GIVE THIS CHILD TO ME, MAYBE A SIMPLE DISSECTION WILL UNRAVEL THE SECRETS OF THIS MYSTERY
OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO BRING BACK BLUE AIR
WE BELIEVE THE KEY TO ITS REVIVAL IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THAT CHILD AND JAFFAR.
WOULDN'T YOU SAY THAT'S EQUIVALENT EXCHANGE?

WHY WOULD YOU?
IT'S THE GOLDEN AGE OF NON-MAGES AND WARRIORS NOW; AND YOU COME HERE TELLING ME THAT YOU WANT THINGS TO GO BACK TO WHAT IT WAS, YOU EXPECT ME TO BUY THAT?
I ADMIT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW, BUT IT'S NOT THE AGE OF WARRIORS YET, MASTER VIDDICH
THERE'S STILL ONE MAGE AT LARGE, IN CONTROL OVER THE WORLD
LIKE A VAMPIRE LORD, SUCKING OUT ALL THE OTHER MAGES
IF THE CAUSE OF DARK AIR REALLY IS HIM, WE CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND

WE'RE BORED, SO TO SPEAK, WITHOUT MAGES. THERE ISN'T ANYONE STRONG ENOUGH FOR OUR AMUSEMENT.
WE'RE JUST DYING TO FIND OUT WHAT SECRETS JAFFAR'S HIDING.
PFFT
HAHAH AHAHA HAHA!

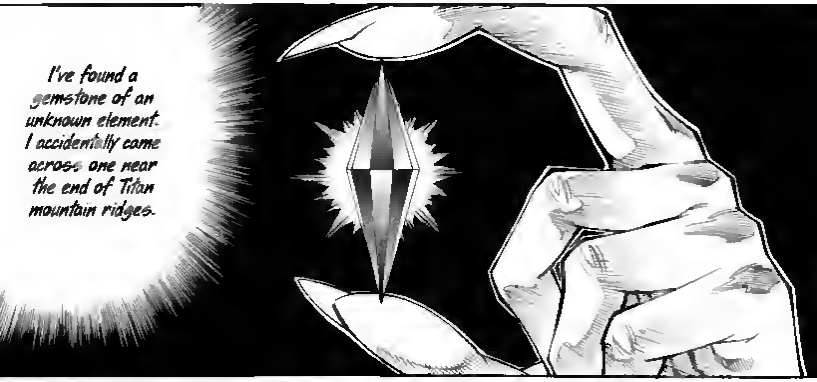
WHAT AN IDIOT YOU ARE, AND HERE I WAS, THINKING YOU HAD SOME NOBLE CAUSE BEHIND THIS!
LISTEN UP, BRATS. WHATEVER THINGS MAY BE, IT'S TRUE THAT SOMETHING IS UNNATURAL ABOUT THIS. SOMETHING ABOUT THIS IS ARTIFICIAL.
I'LL AT LEAST THINK ABOUT THE HASSSLE IT TOOK YOU TO GET HERE AND HELP YOU OUT.

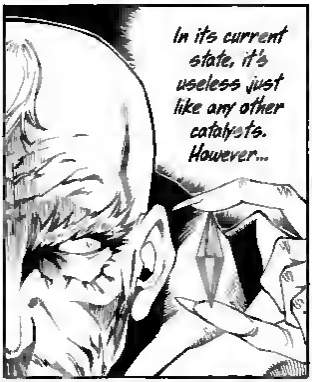
철컹

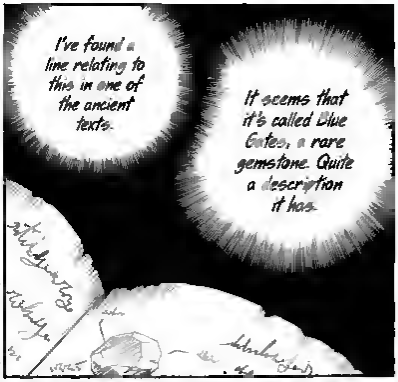
WELL, IT WAS QUITE USEFUL, WASN'T IT? AT LEAST WE HAVE A LEAD TO WORK WITH NOW.

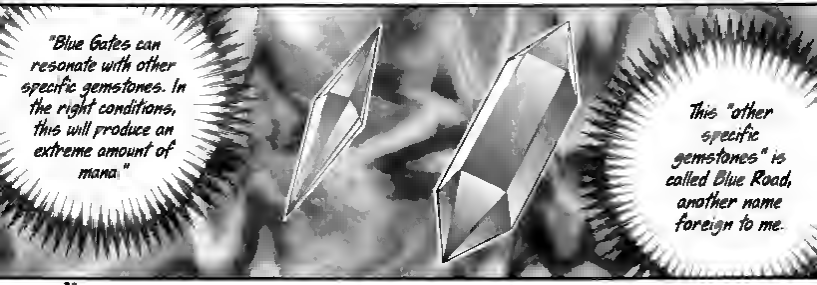
HOW'S YOUR CONDITION?
I'M A BIT DROWSY, BUT I'M FINE.

GOOD. WE'LL RETURN FOR NOW AND THINK ABOUT OUR NEXT MOVE.
As I've mentioned before catalysts.
Common gemstones used to amplify Blue Air before, are nothing but trinkets now.
It's almost redundant to point out that all other catalysts are useless as well
There is this one interesting tidbit I've found out...


I've found a gemstone of an unknown element. I accidentally came across one near the end of Titan mountain ridges.


In its current state, it's useless just like any other catalysts. However...


I've found a line relating to this in one of the ancient texts.
It seems that it's called Blue Gates, a rare gemstone. Quite a description it has.


"Blue Gates can resonate with other specific gemstones. In the right conditions, this will produce an extreme amount of mana."
This "other specific gemstones" is called Blue Road, another name foreign to me.

But the fact that only Jaffar retains his magic... We can only assume that he has a special catalyst of some sort.
Other than that, I haven't made much progress.
I'm positive that there is a connection between those two. This is where we should start.
71
Already Melody Banz and Victor are searching around the country for information
Although we haven't made much progress with it...

Keep the child safe. I believe the key to all this mystery lies with the child.
ARE YOU SURE WE CAN JUST REVEAL OURSELVES LIKE THIS? JAFFAR'S INFORMATION NETWORK IS EVERYWHERE.
FUFU, WE'RE GONNA GET BUSTED SOONER OR LATER, WHY NOT START IT OFF WITH A BANG?
QUIT SPROUTING NONSENSE
IT HAS ITS MERITS. IT GIVES THE EX-MAGES HOPE. JUST THAT COULD GIVE EVERYONE SOME SPIRIT TO FIGHT AGAINST JAFFAR.

YOU THINK THAT THOSE USELESS MAGES WILL FIGHT AGAINST JAFFAR?
HAAH~ YOU NEVER KNOW
NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY, EX-MAGES ARE TREASURE TROVES OF INFORMATION
FOR SOME-ONE LIKE US, INFORMATION CAN BE JUST THE HELP WE NEED
ABOVE ALL, THEY WANT BLUE AIR BACK RATHER THAN REWARDS
73
HMPH. DOESN'T MATTER EITHER WAY, I WASN'T PLANNING ON WORKING TOGETHER WITH THEM ANYWAY

HMM
EK
WH... WHAT HAPPENED?

UHHH?

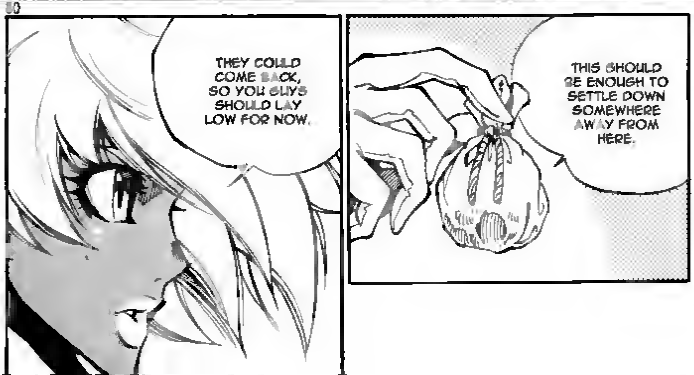
WHAT I'VE BEEN DREADING FINALLY HAPPENED. BUT THIS IS JUST TOO SOON.

THESE PEOPLE, AREN'T THEY THE THIEF GUILD? IS IT BECAUSE OF US...
WHAT DO WE DO? MR. JACK AND MISS KATIE...!
STAY CLOSE TO ME.

MISS SHAENANDO?
MR. JACK?
ARE YOU OKAY?
WELL, I'VE BEEN THROUGH WORSE.

SEEMS THAT THEY WERE STILL ON THE LOOKOUT. MY FAULT FOR BEING CARE-LESS.
OH NO IT WAS OUR FAULT...
WE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN CORNERED, BUT THANKS TO YOUR FRIEND WE'RE FINE NOW.
IT'S NOTHING LIFE-THREATEN-ING, SO DON' WORRY. WELL, IT WAS A BIT DANGEROUS.
FRIEND, YOU SAY...

YEAH, AN EXCELLENT FRIEND.
SO, ANY PROGRESS? IT'S GONNA BE HARD TO STAY AROUND HERE NOW.


THEY COULD COME BACK, SO YOU GUYS SHOULD LAY LOW FOR NOW.
THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO SETTLE DOWN SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM HERE.

DON'T NEED IT. WE HAVE THAT MUCH TO SPARE.
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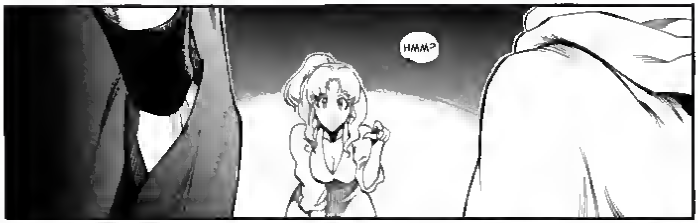
WELL THEN, THANKS FOR THE HELP. TO BE HONEST, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS~
...
THEY WEREN'T JUST AFTER MISS SHAENANDO, SOMEONE ELSE.
I THINK THEY'RE AFTER MISS MELROSE AS WE ARE.


HMM?